

CIRCUIT COURT

PROGRAM:

Management and Adjudication of Civil Cases

PROGRAM ELEMENT:
PROGRAM MISSION:

To administer justice in a fair, timely, and efficient manner when adjudicating civil matters

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- Provide for fair and timely administration of justice
- Foster respect for the law

PROGRAM MEASURES

	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 BUDGET	FY05 ACTUAL	FY06 APPROVED
Outcomes/Results:						
Civil judgments entered	1,176	1,330	1,192	1,330	924	924
Civil cases terminated (resolved) ^a	11,668	12,029	11,838	12,029	11,592	11,592
Civil cases resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution	432	472	427	472	356	356
Service Quality:						
Average time to dispose of civil cases ^b (days)						
Track NT - Little or no trial time necessary (target - 165 days) ^c	116	130	147	165	135	165
Track 0 - No discovery necessary (target - 167 days)	141	141	136	167	130	167
Track 2 - 1/2 to 1 day trial estimate (target - 271 days)	202	199	199	271	211	271
Track 3 - 1 to 3 day trial estimate (target - 416 days)	306	309	317	416	320	416
Track 4 - 3 day trial or more (target - 481 days)	431	389	442	481	420	481
Track 5 - Business and Technology expedited (target - 210 days) ^h	NA	NA	59	210	120	210
Track 6 - Business and Technology standard (target - 540 days) ^h	NA	NA	190	540	193	540
Overall average time for disposition of civil cases (all cases and tracks) (days)	184	189	200	233	196	233
Efficiency:						
Cases terminated per staff year (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) ^d	327	335	347	351	328	318
Average cost per case terminated (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) (\$) ^d	248	258	228	277	297	334
Workload/Outputs:						
Civil cases filed ^g	11,866	11,893	11,487	11,893	11,184	11,184
Civil hearings held	5,496	5,798	5,646	5,798	5,574	5,574
Civil trials by jury	166	166	158	166	168	168
Civil trials by judge	146	166	152	166	161	161
Civil cases ordered to Alternative Dispute Resolution	504	577	575	577	509	509
Civil cases filed as a percentage of total Circuit Court filings	33.0	33.0	32.9	33.0	33.3	33.3
Total Circuit Court filings (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile)	35,915	36,038	34,942	36,038	33,600	33,600
Total Circuit Court terminations (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) ^d	35,773	36,175	34,708	36,175	33,821	33,821
Inputs:						
Workyears ^d	109.3	108.1	^f 100.0	103.2	103.2	ⁱ 106.4
Expenditures (\$000) ^{d,*}	8,879	9,326	7,909	10,036	ⁱ 10,685	ⁱ 11,291

Notes:

^aCivil terminations include cases that are tried, dismissed, settled, or administratively closed due to lack of prosecution.

^bFor civil cases, the disposition time is measured from initial filing to disposition (i.e., trial, settlement, or dismissal).

^cThe figures in italics represent targets (guidelines) for the time to dispose of civil cases when using the given track. Cases that were formerly classified as Track 1 represent family cases and are reported under the "Management and Adjudication of Family Cases" program. These guidelines were developed by committees comprised of judges, court personnel, and representatives of the local Bar, State's Attorney's Office, and Public Defender's Office.

^dWorkyears, expenditures, and the corresponding efficiency measures include the processing of civil, criminal, family, and juvenile cases because it is not feasible to separate expenditures and workyears by type of case. (Staff responsibilities and case processing are not organized by type of case: one person may process several types of cases.) Because workyears and expenditures cannot be split by type of case, both efficiency measures are based on all Circuit Court terminations: civil, criminal, family, and juvenile (this total is shown for reference under "Workload/Outputs").

^eExpenditures include the Family Grant, which partially funds the Juvenile Division.

^fThe State of Maryland assumed the funding for the judicial law clerks, resulting in a permanent decrease in workyears starting in FY04.

^gCivil filing data include the Register of Wills caseload.

^hTracks 5 and 6 were added in October 2003 for Business and Technology cases.

ⁱThe increase reflects the new Adult Drug Court and Juvenile Drug Court grants.

EXPLANATION:

One of the Circuit Court's primary functions is the adjudication of civil cases. The Court has integrated the Differentiated Case Management (DCM) concept into the daily operations of all units supporting the Circuit Court's functions. DCM is an approach designed to improve the efficiency of case processing and reduce the demand for judicial intervention (continuances, hearings, etc.) at every phase of litigation. Mechanisms have been designed to avoid multiple court appearances and assure the timely provision of resources for the expeditious processing and resolution of cases on each track.

The results for the average time to dispose of cases are based on cases that were disposed in the given fiscal year, regardless of the date on which a case was filed. Timely case termination based upon track guidelines depends upon the availability of sufficient resource levels in the Circuit and District Courts, the Public Defender's Office, Parole and Probation, and the State's Attorney's Office. Criminal litigation takes precedence over civil litigation as criminal cases must be tried within 180 days from the Rule 4-215 hearing.

PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: Clerk of the Circuit Court, Maryland and Montgomery County bar associations.

MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: State legislative mandates, Maryland Rules of Procedure, Maryland Annotated Code, Montgomery County Code, Court of Appeals of Maryland.

CIRCUIT COURT

PROGRAM: Management and Adjudication of Criminal Cases	PROGRAM ELEMENT:
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PROGRAM MISSION: To administer justice in a fair, timely, and efficient manner when adjudicating criminal matters

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for fair and timely administration of justice • Foster respect for the law • Ensure the safety of all citizens

PROGRAM MEASURES	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 BUDGET	FY05 ACTUAL	FY06 APPROVED
Outcomes/Results:						
Criminal cases sentenced	2,798	1,704	1,544	1,704	1,755	1,755
Criminal cases terminated (resolved) ^a	6,850	5,795	4,914	5,795	5,161	5,161
Service Quality:						
Average time to dispose of criminal cases ^b (days)						
Track 0 - No discovery/hand gun charge (<i>target - 46 days</i>) ^c	66	82	60	46	103	46
Track 1 - Jury demands and appeals (<i>target - 57 days</i>)	51	43	41	57	43	57
Track 2 - Locally incarcerated (<i>target - 72 days</i>)	99	96	99	72	105	72
Track 3 - Routine criminal on bond status (<i>target - 116 days</i>)	99	97	109	116	114	116
Track 4 - Complex issues: expected trial duration 3+ days (<i>target - 127 days</i>)	176	163	170	127	187	127
Overall average time for disposition of criminal cases (<i>target - 180 days</i>)	68	74	80	180	84	180
Efficiency:						
Cases terminated per staff year (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) ^d	327	335	347	351	328	318
Average cost per case terminated (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) (\$) ^d	248	258	228	277	297	334
Workload/Outputs:						
Criminal cases filed	6,711	5,540	5,046	5,540	5,075	5,075
Criminal hearings held	13,509	10,464	10,001	10,464	10,407	10,407
Criminal cases tried by jury	134	106	104	106	104	104
Criminal cases tried by judge	79	80	64	80	174	174
Criminal cases filed as a percentage of total Circuit Court filings	18.7	15.4	14.4	15.4	15.1	15.1
Total Circuit Court filings (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile)	35,915	36,038	34,942	36,038	33,600	33,600
Total Circuit Court terminations (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) ^d	35,773	36,175	34,708	36,175	33,821	33,821
Inputs:						
Workyears ^d	109.3	108.1	^f 100.0	103.2	103.2	^g 106.4
Expenditures (\$000) ^{d,e}	8,879	9,326	7,909	10,036	^g 10,685	^g 11,291

Notes:
^aTerminations are cases that have gone to sentencing or to case closure, i.e. not guilty verdicts, dismissals, or where the State's Attorney decides not to prosecute.

^bFor criminal cases, disposition time is measured from initial filing to adjudication by trial or plea, less any period of time an arrest warrant was outstanding. It does not include the time for sentencing.

^cThe figures in italics represent targets (guidelines) for the time to dispose of criminal cases when using the given track. These guidelines were developed by committees comprised of judges, court personnel, and representatives of the local Bar, State's Attorney's Office, and Public Defender's Office.

^dWorkyears, expenditures, and the corresponding efficiency measures include the processing of civil, criminal, family, and juvenile cases because it is not feasible to separate expenditures and workyears by type of case. (Staff responsibilities and case processing are not organized by type of case: one person may process several types of cases.) Because workyears and expenditures cannot be split by type of case, both efficiency measures are based on all Circuit Court terminations: civil, criminal, family, and juvenile (this total is shown for reference under "Workload/Outputs").

^eExpenditures include the Family Grant, which partially funds the Juvenile Division.

^fThe State of Maryland assumed the funding for the judicial law clerks, resulting in a permanent decrease in workyears starting in FY04.

^gThe increase reflects the new Adult Drug Court and Juvenile Drug Court grants.

EXPLANATION:
 One of the Circuit Court's primary functions is to adjudicate criminal cases. The Court has integrated the Differentiated Case Management (DCM) concept into the daily operations of all units supporting the Circuit Court's functions. DCM is an approach designed to improve the efficiency of case processing and reduce the demand for judicial intervention (continuances, hearings, etc.) at every phase of litigation. DCM achieves these goals by the early differentiation of cases entering the judicial system in terms of the nature and extent of the judicial/justice system resources they will require. Each case is then assigned to an appropriate "track" established by the Court system. The track manages the performance of pre-trial tasks and allocates the appropriate level of judicial and other system resources, minimizing processing delays. Mechanisms have been designed to avoid multiple court appearances and assure the timely provision of resources for the expeditious processing and resolution of cases on each track. Since April 2003, cases appealed from the District Court have been given an instant jury trial, which has reduced the number of criminal cases filed.

Timely case termination based upon track guidelines depends upon the availability of sufficient resource levels in the Circuit and District Courts, the Public Defender's Office, Parole and Probation, the State's Attorney's Office, and others.

PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: District Court, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, Montgomery County Police, Sheriff's Office, Clerk of Circuit Court, Parole and Probation.

MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: State legislative mandates, Maryland Rules of Procedure, Maryland Annotated Code, Montgomery County Code, Court of Appeals of Maryland.

CIRCUIT COURT

PROGRAM:

Management and Adjudication of Family Cases

PROGRAM ELEMENT:
PROGRAM MISSION:

To administer justice in a fair, timely and efficient manner when adjudicating family matters

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- Provide for fair and timely administration of justice
- Foster respect for the law
- Provide a means for litigants to become aware of their rights and responsibilities
- Provide access to information to assist litigants with the judicial process

PROGRAM MEASURES

	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 BUDGET	FY05 ACTUAL	FY06 APPROVED
Outcomes/Results:						
Family cases terminated (resolved) ^a	13,161	13,369	12,216	13,369	12,876	12,876
Family property cases partially/fully resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution	285	268	181	268	171	171
Family custody cases partially/fully resolved through In-House Mediation Program	321	299	286	299	279	279
Service Quality:						
Average time to conclude a family case (days): ^b						
No Track (<i>Change of Name, Guardianship, Child Support, etc.</i>) ^c	NA	97	105	105	90	105
Track 0 ^d (<i>target - 35 days</i>) ^e	51	57	64	35	59	35
Track 1 ^d (<i>target - 48 to 64 days</i>)	120	124	131	64	121	64
Track 2 ^d (<i>target - 168 days</i>)	200	189	197	168	192	168
Track 3 ^d (<i>target - 224 to 280 days</i>)	246	233	253	280	248	280
Track 4 ^d (<i>target - 224 to 365 days</i>)	442	445	491	365	374	365
Overall average time for disposition of family cases (all cases and tracks) (days)	114	116	130	115	126	115
Efficiency:						
Cases terminated per staff year (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) ^f	327	335	347	351	328	318
Average cost per case terminated (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) (\$) ^f	248	258	228	277	297	334
Workload/Outputs:						
Family cases filed	13,320	13,531	12,528	13,531	13,005	13,005
Master hearings held	7,748	7,883	8,239	7,883	8,462	8,462
Judge hearings held	4,367	4,433	4,218	4,433	4,264	4,264
Trials ⁱ	369	615	690	615	681	681
Family property cases ordered to Alternative Dispute Resolution	431	454	442	454	422	422
Family custody cases ordered to In-House Mediation Program	657	705	672	705	705	705
Family cases filed as a percentage of total Circuit Court filings	37.1	37.5	35.9	37.5	38.7	38.7
Total Circuit Court filings (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile)	35,915	36,038	34,942	36,038	33,600	33,600
Total Circuit Court terminations (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) ^j	35,773	36,175	34,708	36,175	33,821	33,821
Inputs:						
Workyears ^k	109.3	108.1	^h 100.0	103.2	103.2	ⁱ 106.4
Expenditures (\$000) ^{l,g}	8,879	9,326	7,909	10,036	^j 10,685	^k 11,291

Notes:

^aTerminations are family cases that have reached final resolution in terms of the *original* basis for the case.

^bFor family cases, the disposition time is measured from the Scheduling Conference to conclusion of the case.

^cTracking of data for "No Track" cases began in FY03.

^dTracks 0 and 1 involve uncontested cases (final divorces). Track 2 may involve any or all of the following issues: divorce, legal custody, visitation, monetary award, or property. Track 3 involves the same issues as Track 2 but includes physical custody issues. Track 4 is for extremely complex issues. Under the Differentiated Case Management approach, unless specifically requested, the trial will be set for a date when the parties become eligible for a final divorce, thus eliminating the need for two hearings.

^eThe figures in italics represent targets (guidelines) for the time to dispose of family cases when using the given track. These guidelines were developed by committees comprised of judges, court personnel, and representatives of the local Bar, State's Attorney's Office, and Public Defender's Office.

^fWorkyears, expenditures, and the corresponding efficiency measures include the processing of civil, criminal, family, and juvenile cases because it is not feasible to separate expenditures and workyears by type of case. (Staff responsibilities and case processing are not organized by type of case: one person may process several types of cases.) Because workyears and expenditures cannot be split by type of case, both efficiency measures are based on *all* Circuit Court terminations: civil, criminal, family, and juvenile (this total is shown for reference under "Workload/Outputs").

^gExpenditures include the Family Grant, which partially funds the Juvenile Division.

^hThe State of Maryland assumed the funding for the judicial law clerks, resulting in a permanent decrease in workyears starting in FY04.

ⁱIncludes trials that must be heard by a judge or jury on issues such as contested divorces or custody or property, and contested modifications of previous decisions regarding such matters.

^jThe increase reflects the new Adult Drug Court and Juvenile Drug Court grants.

EXPLANATION:

October 2004 marked the completion of six years of operation for the Circuit Court's Family Division. The Maryland Judiciary's statewide philosophy on family divisions begins with a belief that Courts should assist families in every possible way. The goal is to utilize the most effective case management principles and to offer practical alternatives for a constructive and lasting resolution of issues, keeping the best interests of the children firmly in mind. In adopting a more holistic approach to families in crisis, the Court has provided litigants with an opportunity for reconciliation or - alternatively - resolution of conflicts in the least legally adversarial manner.

Adjudication of the majority of family cases starts with a Scheduling Conference. At the Scheduling Conference, the Family Division Master assesses the issues, determines what services are appropriate, and establishes the case schedule. Potential services include parenting seminars, mediation, the settlement facilitation program, alternative dispute resolution, custody/visitation assessments and evaluations, supervised visitation, and the *Pro Se* Project (self-representation).

PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: Clerk of the Circuit Court, Maryland and Montgomery County bar associations, Maryland's Administrative Office of the Courts, private mental health professionals, Family Trauma Services, Adult Addiction Services, Montgomery County Office of Child Support, Abused Persons Program, Women's Law Center, House of Ruth.

MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: Maryland Rules of Procedure, Maryland Annotated Code, Family Law Articles, State legislative mandates, Court of Appeals of Maryland.

CIRCUIT COURT

PROGRAM:

 Management and Adjudication of Juvenile Cases^a
PROGRAM ELEMENT:
PROGRAM MISSION:

To administer justice in a fair, timely, and efficient manner when adjudicating juvenile matters

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- Provide for fair and timely administration of justice
- Foster respect for the law
- Ensure the safety of all citizens

PROGRAM MEASURES

	FY02 ACTUAL ^a	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 BUDGET	FY05 ACTUAL	FY06 APPROVED
Outcomes/Results:						
Delinquency cases completed	NA	3,360	3,906	3,360	3,788	3,788
Child in Need of Assistance cases completed ^b	NA	1,414	286	1,414	306	306
Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases completed	NA	132	97	132	16	16
Adoption cases completed	NA	25	37	25	30	30
Service Quality: ^c						
Average days from service of the petition to disposition:						
Delinquency cases (target - 90 days)	NA	67	65	90	59	90
Child in Need of Assistance cases (target - 90 days)	NA	26	34	90	37	90
Average days from filing to disposition:						
Termination of Parental Rights cases (target - 180 days to final order for TPR)	NA	228	203	180	196	180
Adoption cases (target - 730 days from granting of TPR)	NA	160	275	730	314	730
Efficiency:						
Cases terminated per staff year (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) ^d	327	335	347	351	328	318
Average cost per case terminated (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) (\$) ^d	248	258	228	277	297	334
Workload/Outputs:						
Delinquency cases filed	NA	3,409	4,057	3,409	3,861	3,861
Child in Need of Assistance cases filed ^b	NA	1,484	302	1,484	353	353
Termination of Parental Rights cases filed	NA	105	116	105	33	33
Adoption cases filed	NA	26	38	26	31	31
Peace Order and Voluntary Placement cases filed	NA	50	91	50	58	58
Hearings held ^e	NA	10,931	11,817	10,931	11,841	11,841
Court trials/adjudicatory hearings held	NA	125	115	125	114	114
Mediation:						
Cases screened	NA	158	271	158	314	314
Cases mediated with resolution	NA	42	57	42	77	77
Cases mediated without resolution	NA	10	36	10	67	67
Juvenile cases as a percentage of total Circuit Court filings	NA	14.1	13.2	14.1	12.9	12.9
Total Circuit Court filings (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile)	35,915	36,038	34,942	36,038	33,600	33,600
Total Circuit Court terminations (civil, criminal, family, and juvenile) ^d	35,773	36,175	34,708	36,175	33,821	33,821
Inputs:						
Workyears ^d	109.3	108.1	^a 100.0	103.2	103.2	^h 106.4
Expenditures (\$000) ^{d,f}	8,879	9,326	7,909	10,036	^h 10,685	^h 11,291

Notes:
^aOn March 1, 2002, jurisdiction over the Juvenile Court was transferred from the District Court to the Circuit Court.

^bThe decrease in Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases filed and CINA cases completed from FY03 to FY04 is due to a statistical reporting change made by Maryland's Administrative Office of the Courts.

^cThere are potentially 10 track assignments for juvenile cases. To simplify the above presentation, the service quality measures focus on the four major types of juvenile cases (delinquency cases, Child in Need of Assistance, Termination of Parental Rights, and adoption cases) rather than the ten case management tracks. The measures reflect, in part, compliance with statutory deadlines that are triggered differently, depending on the type of case.

^dWorkyears, expenditures, and the corresponding efficiency measures include the processing of civil, criminal, family, and juvenile cases because it is not feasible to separate expenditures and workyears by type of case. (Staff responsibilities and case processing are not organized by type of case: one person may process several types of cases.) Because workyears and expenditures cannot be split by type of case, both efficiency measures are based on all Circuit Court terminations: civil, criminal, family, and juvenile (this total is shown for reference under "Workload/Outputs").

^eHearings include peace order hearings, detention/shelter care hearings, preliminary inquiries, service status hearings, and scheduling conferences; pretrial/settlement conferences, pretrial/settlement scheduling conferences, and pretrial/settlement planning conferences (different types of pretrial settlement conferences are used for different case management tracks); planning conferences, disposition hearings, restitution hearings, permanency planning hearings, adoption hearings, and review hearings for all types of juvenile cases.

^fExpenditures include the Family Grant, which partially funds the Juvenile Court.

^gThe State of Maryland assumed the funding for the judicial law clerks, resulting in a permanent decrease in workyears for FY04.

^hThe increase reflects the new Adult Drug Court and Juvenile Drug Court grants.

ⁱThe FY05 decrease (as compared with FY03 and FY04) in Termination of Parental Rights cases completed is due to a statistical reporting change made by Maryland's Administrative Office of the Court.

EXPLANATION:

One of the Circuit Court's primary functions is to adjudicate delinquency and dependency (child abuse/neglect) cases in the Juvenile Court. Using a Differentiated Case Management (DCM) approach, juvenile cases are scheduled with appropriate resources depending on the type of case and the custody status of the child. While statutory deadlines are quite short in juvenile causes, case management helps bring cases to an appropriate resolution as early as possible in the process, often avoiding the need for contested adjudication. Mediation services help produce collaborative outcomes in dependency cases, helping children to attain a safe, permanent home and their families to obtain the services they need more promptly. Timely case termination based upon track guidelines depends upon the availability of sufficient resource levels in the Circuit Court, the Public Defender's Office, the County Attorney's Office, the State's Attorney's Office, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, and others.

PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: State's Attorney's Office; Public Defender's Office; Sheriff's Office; Maryland Juvenile Services and Human Resources departments; Montgomery County Attorney, Police Department, and Department of Health and Human Services; Clerk of the Circuit Court; CASA of Maryland.

MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: State legislative mandates, Maryland Rules of Procedure, Maryland Annotated Code, Montgomery County Code, Court of Appeals of Maryland.